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Conclusions of Mr. Wilson's Address

[Following is the conclusion of the address given by Dr. Wilson on June 17, 1975.]

Let's look at just a few examples to illustrate the increases in agricultural efficiency that have occurred during the past quarter century. In 1950 each farm worker fed 14 people. In 1974 he fed about 47 people and a record number of cats, riding horses and other pets. In 1950 it took, on the average, two acres of land to support one person. In 1974 the carrying capacity was almost one person per acre. Average corn yields increased from less than 40 to more than 90 bushels per acre between 1950 and 1974. In 1950, 100 pounds of feed produced about 27 pounds of broilers.

In 1974, 100 pounds of feed produced more than 40 pounds of broilers. Egg production per hen per year increased from about 175 to about 230 between 1950 and 1974.

No one believes that this rate of progress can be sustained indefinitely. In 1950 we had a considerable backlog of technology due in part to the fact that farmers had been rather slow to change their practices. For example, it was 36 years from the time that hybrid corn was developed until a level of 95 per cent acceptance was reached. Today the backlog is practically exhausted. The chances of developing a new backlog are slim because new technology is now adopted rather quickly by today's farmers. It took only three years to reach 95 per cent acceptance of mechanical harvesting of grapes and only two years passed from the time the vaccine for Marek's disease was developed until it was 95 per cent accepted.

During most of the past 25 years the farmer had access to an abundance of fertilizers, pesticides and energy sources at reasonable prices. This is no longer true and is not likely to ever be true again. In addition to much higher costs of fertilizers and pesticides, the farmer must now operate under restraints with respect to their use that are imposed in order to preserve as much as possible the quality of the environment.

There are biological restraints that will tend to slow the rate of increase in agricultural efficiency. For example, it takes about 24 hours for a shell to be formed around an egg. To produce more than 365 eggs per hen per year will require a major breakthrough. It still takes nine months from the time a cow is bred until a calf is born -- no matter how many bulls are in the pasture. It is not likely that this time period can be shortened. We may be able to induce twinning which would have the same effect as cutting the 9-month period to 4½ months. The time required for each crop that we grow to reach maturity is determined by the laws of genetics. Plant breeders can shorten the time required within certain limits but the limits are not wide. However, it may be possible to grow two crops on the land at the same time.

So, our work is cut out for us. With the world's population increasing faster than ever before, time is running out. Population and the food supply will be brought into balance by one means or another. This balance does not have to be achieved by war or by mass starvation. Even though progress during the next 25 years is likely to slow down, there are still many opportunities to increase the world's food supply. These opportunities have been identified and are being evaluated by competent scientists throughout the world. This evaluation is a continuing effort requiring both basic and applied research to determine what is possible as well as the costs.

The Research and Continuing Education Center will play an important role in evaluating the alternatives available to us. It is part of a national network of State Agricultural Experiment Stations and USDA Research Centers and Laboratories. The work here will be backstopped and supported by research in the laboratories on the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech. The research that is conducted at this Center will be planned and conducted primarily for the benefit of the people who reside in the 21-county area designated as the Southern Piedmont. Some of the research, however, will apply to a much wider area. For example, anything that can be learned here on ways of reducing energy requirements for production or preventing pollution of water by fertilizers or pesticides will be useful in many other areas of the State and Nation.

EAGLES HOLDING THEIR OWN IN VIRGINIA

Game Wardens J. D. Dedrick and L. R. Buchanan reported one adult and one immature eagle in the Port Royal area of the Rappahannock River. This is the first young eagle seen in this area in some time. This sighting helps confirm a recent report by Jackson M. Abbott, Coordinator of the Chesapeake Bay Region Bald Eagle Survey indicating that Virginia eagles are holding their own. In his report, Mr. Abbott states that Virginia's nesting bald eagle population has held steady for 14 years with a hatching success ratio of about 25%.

In 1975, 32 active nests were observed in Virginia and of this group, seven hatched young (a total of nine eaglets) and 25 were abandoned. Of those abandoned, two normally successful nests were wind damaged, including one at the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Fairfax County.

There seems to be at least some indication that a few of the breeding eagles in the Chesapeake Bay region are recovering from chemical-based problems of the 1950's and 1960's. Four usually unproductive pairs (one in Virginia and three in Maryland) hatched young in 1975 for the first time since their nests have been observed.

VA Questions and Answers

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Veterans and their families are asking thousands of questions concerning the benefits their Government provides for them through the Veterans Administration. Below are some representative queries. Additional information may be obtained at any VA office.)

Q - When is the deadline for veterans to apply for medical treatment at Veterans Administration hospitals?

A - There is no deadline, but priority is given to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Q - I lost my World War II National Service Life Insurance policy. How can I obtain a copy?

A - Request a copy from the Veterans Administration Insurance Center where you pay your premiums, either in Philadelphia or St. Paul, Minn. If you had a paid-up policy, direct your request to the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia.

Q - I plan to move next month. How can I make sure the Veterans Administration sends my pension check to my new address?

A - Notify the VA regional office where your records are filed, giving your claim number and your old and new address. You also should notify your post office, but not the Treasury Department.

Q - My education allowance check for last month has not arrived from the Veterans Administration. What should I do?

A - Check with the "vet rep" if there's one on your college campus. If not, write to the VA regional office which has your file. Be sure to provide your name, claim number and address.

Q - I'm a World War I veteran drawing compensation from the Veterans Administration for a service connected disability. Am I eligible for a $3,300 automobile allowance?

A - No, sorry. The law restricts this benefit to eligible veterans of World War II, Korean Conflict, Post-Korean period, Vietnam Era and military service personnel currently on active duty.

Q - How many spinal cord injury treatment centers and prosthetic treatment centers does the Veterans Administration have?

A - As of June 1975, VA had 17 spinal cord injury centers and 20 prosthetic treatment centers for amputees, geographically dispersed around the country.

The Pastor Speaks

Preaching and teaching the eternal verities of the cross of Christ seem rather ridiculous to the majority of people. They just can't see the life-changing implications of this historic fact. They realize that something is missing in their own life but they don't see that power for abundant living is available to anyone when they personally appropriate the realities of the cross. I Corinthians 1:18 reminds us of this fact, **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

Perhaps you realize that your life is incomplete and you want to know how to appropriate this supernatural power into your life. Permit me to share the following with you. First, **eternal life and power for abundant living is a gift from God.** You can't earn it nor can you buy it. **Secondly, you appropriate it through faith.** The faith you must exercise is not in yourself but in a person, Jesus Christ. That's where the cross comes in. Jesus died on the cross in order that you might live forever and abundantly. I don't know why God chose to save us this way, but I do know that it works. Faith requires confession and repentance. Not only must you believe the historical fact, you must also admit that you have sinned and stand in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. Repentance means a willingness to turn around in life and walk toward God in obedience. Ephesians 2:8 says, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."** My prayer is that you will appropriate by faith the power for abundant living. Talk to God about it right now. May God bless you.

H. Doyle Chauncey, Pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va. 24522

The Sunday School Lesson

Comments by Herbert C. Bradshaw

Lesson For July 20, 1975

Topic: Overcoming Hindrances to Growth
Scripture: Acts 10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7-16

I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

There are hindrances to every sort of growth. In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus gave a classic description of the hindrances to plant growth, the hard-beaten earth of the path, the stony ground, the briers and brambles where the seed fell. Whenever there is a prolonged dry spell or an unseasonable frost, we see the damaging effects of hostile weather on plant growth. Physical and mental growth in humans and animals may be hampered by improper diet and insufficient food. The individual may stunt his intellectual growth by refusing to observe and study.

So there are hindrances to spiritual growth, hindrances imposed by external circumstances and self-imposed hindrances. The Scripture passages on which this week's International Sunday School lesson is based show some of the hindrances. Acts 10 relates how Peter, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, put aside the prejudices he shared with those of his social environment and culture. Those prejudices were a handicap not only to Peter's spiritual growth but also to the growth of the Kingdom of God and of the Christian Church.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 2, suggests the handicap disappointment can put on spiritual growth. His experience in Athens had been disappointing, for though he had won some converts, the indifference of the Athenians generally frustrated his missionary and evangelistic effort there as it was nowhere else of which there is record. In Athens as nowhere else Paul undertook a synthesis of Greek philosophy and Christian flavor and its quotation from Greek literature, was brilliant intellectual, impressive. But the Athenians, as self-satisfied with their philosophies as the Pharisees and Sadducees whom Jesus tried to reach were with their religion, were unimpressed. So when Paul moved on to Corinth, instead of despairing over Athenian indifference, he left Greek philosophy and literature behind and "decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Not only does he suggest an obstacle to spiritual growth, but he also shows how to remove it, just as Peter did when he went to the home of Cornelius.

The obstacles to spiritual growth are legion: the fleshly appetites, for food, for drink, for sex; worldly ambition, with its goals of wealth and power; putting one's own self and feelings first; indifference to spiritual concerns and the needs of others; unwillingness to study the Scriptures and other works which edify and illumine the mind and spirit; neglect of prayer and frequent communion with God.

Yet some obstacles to spiritual growth and temptations to wander from the upward way can be handled constructively and productively. These can be made incentives to cultivate more intensively the spiritual life and to follow more closely the example of Jesus. We must, of course, recognize obstacles and temptations for what they are and the damage they can do to us. We can also recognize that obstacles can be removed and temptations can be overcome. In removing the obstacle and overcoming the temptation, the individual gains spiritual strength and grows spiritually.

Human experience, both individual and collective, teaches us that life is no smooth, easy road. The wind is not always at our backs. The courageous heart sees obstacles as opportunities and adversity as a refiner's fire. A person does not turn an obstacle into opportunity or come out of adversity a better man or woman in his own strength. The size of the obstacle, the overpowering influence of temptation, the severe blow of disappointment, discouraging circumstances, time may seem to be against us, with them. The source of strength cannot cope with the problems of life any more than himself. Paul had fundamental faith when he wrote, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

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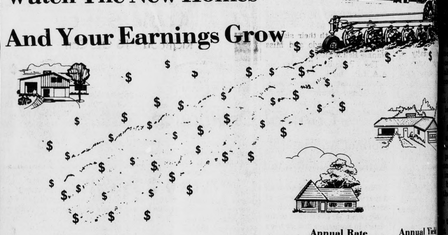

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Pamplin

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Grammer, of Richmond, have returned after a visit with their sister, Mrs. Percy Lucado and Miss Nannie Bell Williams.

The Pamplin Chapter of A.A.R.P. held its monthly meeting last Thursday night. Mr. Gilmer Young, president, presided and introduced Mr. Wallace Clair, executive director of Virginia Commission on Aging. Mr. Clair gave a talk on his activities during the war and his work on the aging problem in the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Appomattox, Amherst and the City of Lynchburg. Refreshments were served during the social hour.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Dudley returned home last Friday from Blacksburg. Mr. Dudley attended the Agricultural Education Teachers' Conference.

Mr. Oswald Williams, Norfolk, visited relatives here last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Inge, of Dayton, and Mr. and Mrs. David Savitz, Salem, enroute home from Myrtle Beach, S.C., spent the week end with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lucado, of Louisville, Kentucky, are spending a few days visiting relatives and friends.

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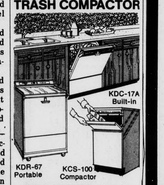

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By Dan Daniel

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Identify the following: A Latin American country, ruled by a military junta that overthrew a democratically - elected government. This dictatorship recently killed and wounded hundreds of strikers, muzzled the press, and jailed citizens for weeks without trial. Is the country Chile, or Brazil? It could be. It could also be Peru, where a leftist military regime holds sway, and these conditions exist.

Untold billions of words poured forth about Cambodians made homeless by the war in that area during the past five years. How much do you read about the misery and suffering of the people of Phnom Penh, who were driven out of the city by their own countrymen, there to starve, and die from disease, and their bodies stacked like cordwood?

With this kind of slant to the national news we are permitted to read, I prefer some other source for my facts.

The thing which is most provoking, though, is the self-assumed attitude that the Gardners and Naders of the World have invented virtue. Most of us know people who have served in public office. A few may have been corrupt; most have been honest people trying to do a difficult job under trying conditions. They do not deserve the attitude displayed by some who appear to be feathering their own political nests.

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